Lafayette Public Library Issue Fact Sheet

Current Library Issues

Hostile board members; frequent board turnover; politically appointed board

Four library board of control members have resigned in the last two years; one position has been eliminated. Parish Council members continue to appoint agenda-driven candidates. A public petition with nearly 600 signatures was ignored.

Library Staffing/Hostile Work Environment

The hostile working environment caused by board actions has resulted in a loss of staff & the difficulty in filling vacancies. The board has disaffiliated from the ALA, attempted to fire librarians, & illegally fired the Director.

Mismanagement of Library Expansion/Renovation Projects

NE Library Project has been delayed unnecessarily for two years, while the community committee was dismissed without notice. Planned expansion at NR branch was scaled back, then delayed. Planned renovation at SR branch is now hundreds of thousands of dollars over budget due to board delays.

Censorship/First Amendment Violations/Legal Issues

Board members have voted to ban books; the teen non-fiction book section was eliminated; & displays were banned. Members of the public have been removed from board meetings/had speech stifled/been arrested. Unconstitutional rules for public comment were put in place at meetings.

Legal Issues

The LPL Board of Control has been involved in multiple lawsuits/complaints, including a suit brought by the former director, a suit for First Amendment/Open Meetings violations, and multiple hostile work environment complaints.

2020 Modisette Award for Best Public Library in Louisiana

1.8M Total checkouts FY 22-23. This is down 22% over the last 5 years.

Find out more at www.lacitizensagainstcensorship.org

Lafayette Citizens Against Censorship

About us

We are a grassroots, citizen-led organization of people who love our public library system and do not want to see it politicized. We have come together from all across the political spectrum in order to ensure that our library remains free, open, and welcoming to EVERY member of our community. We attend board meetings, sign petitions, and protest board actions when necessary.

Get in Touch

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/LACitAgainstCensorship
Instagram:
@lafayetteagainstcensorship